

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed August 26, 2004. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1 - 26 remain pending. In particular, Applicants have amended claims 1, 6, 15 and 22. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

In the Specification

The Office Action indicates that the Abstract stands objected to due various reasons cited in the Action. As set forth above, Applicants have provided a replacement Abstract and respectfully assert that the objection has been accommodated.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Office Action indicates that claims 1 – 5, 10 – 15, 19 – 22 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Nielsen*. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Turning first to *Nielsen*, that reference generally involves a method and apparatus for altering sent electronic mail messages. As disclosed in *Nielsen*:

One aspect of the invention is a computer controlled ***method for allowing an e-mail sender to alter a previously-sent electronic mail message*** addressed to a recipient whose computer is beyond the scope of control of the sender's computer. ***The sender first selects which previously-sent message to alter. The invention then constructs an action message and sends the action message to the recipient's computer where it is received.*** (*Nielsen*, col. 3. Lines 10 – 17). (Emphasis Added).

As disclosed in the exemplary teaching of *Nielsen* above, *Nielsen* involves alteration of an email message, not of an email attachment. This aspect of Applicants' invention has been clarified as set forth in the amended claims.

With respect to the claims, claim 1 recites:

1. A method for sending documents, comprising:
determining whether a user sent a copy of a document as an email attachment to a first set of at least one recipient via email; and
if the user sent the copy of the document to the at least one recipient of the first set, *correlating information with the document so that a copy of a revised version of the document can be sent automatically as another email attachment* to the at least one recipient of the first set.
(Emphasis Added).

Applicants respectfully assert that *Nielsen* does not teach or otherwise disclose at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of claim 1 has been rendered moot and that this claim is in condition for allowance.

Since claims 2 - 5 and 10 - 14 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 1, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims also are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

By way of example, claim 7 recites:

7. The method of claim 6, further comprising:
determining whether the at least one recipient of the second set sent the copy of the document to at least one recipient of a third set; and appending the information with addresses of the at least one recipient of the third set, if the at least one recipient of the second set sent the copy of the document to the at least one recipient of the third set.
(Emphasis Added).

Applicants respectfully assert that *Nielsen* does not teach or reasonably disclose at least the additional features/limitations emphasized above in claim 7. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that at least this claim clearly is in condition for allowance.

By way of further example, claim 8 recites:

8. The method of claim 7, further comprising:
automatically enabling the copy of the revised version of the document to be sent to the at least one recipient of the first, second, and third sets when the revised version of the document is saved.

Applicants respectfully assert that *Nielsen* does not teach or reasonably disclose at least the additional feature/limitation recited above in claim 8. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that this claim also is clearly in condition for allowance.

With respect to claim 15, that claim recites:

15. A communications system, comprising:
a document-sending system configured to:
determine whether a user sent a copy of a document attached to an email message to a first set of at least one recipient via email; and
correlate information with the document so that a copy of a revised version of the document can be sent automatically as an attachment to another email message, if the user sent the copy of the document to the at least one recipient of the first set.
(Emphasis Added).

Applicants respectfully assert that *Nielsen* does not teach or otherwise disclose at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 15. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of claim 15 has been rendered moot and that this claim is in condition for allowance.

Since claims 16 - 21 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 15, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims also are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

With respect to claim 22, that claim recites:

22. A computer-readable medium storing a computer program for sending documents, the computer-readable medium comprising:

logic configured to determine whether a user sent a copy of a document attached to an email message to a first set of at least one recipient via email; and

logic configured to correlate information with the document so that a copy of a revised version of the document can be sent automatically attached to another email message, the logic correlates the information if the user sent the copy of the document to the at least one recipient of the first set.

(Emphasis Added).

Applicants respectfully assert that *Nielsen* does not teach or otherwise disclose at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 22. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of claim 22 has been rendered moot and that this claim is in condition for allowance.

Since claims 23 - 26 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 22, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims also are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action indicates that claims 6 – 9, 16 – 18 and 23 - 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Nielsen* in view of *Naylor*. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections. Specifically, Applicants respectfully assert that the combination of *Nielsen* and *Naylor* is legally deficient for the purpose of rendering obvious the features/limitations recited in the claims currently pending rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103. In particular, Applicants respectfully assert that *Naylor* does not teach or reasonably suggest at least the features/limitations emphasized above as lacking in *Nielsen* as discussed in Applicants' response to the rejections under 35 U.S.C.102. Since neither, nor a combination

of these references, teaches or reasonably suggests at least these features/limitations recited in the respective independent claims, Applicants respectfully assert that the dependent claims stand improperly rejected and are, thus, in condition for allowance.

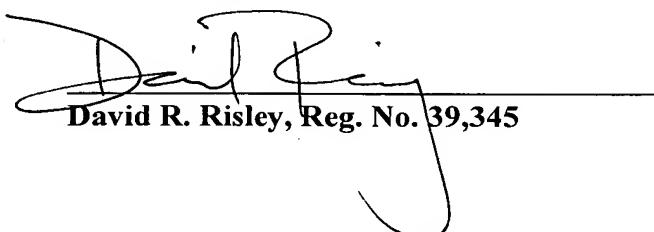
Cited Art Made of Record

The cited art made of record has been considered, but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims 1 - 26 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on 9/23/04.

Stephanie Riley
Signature